

## REMARKS

Claims 1 through 27 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 14, 18, 22, 24, 25, and 27 are the only independent claims present in the application. All claims heretofore on file in the application have been allowed.

Dependent Claims 25 and 26 have been amended herein to even more clearly recite the invention and/or to place these claims in better form. Specifically, Claim 25 has been amended to improve its syntax. Claim 26 has been amended to improve its form by deleting superfluous text. The recitation in Claim 26, i.e., the information “concerning the characteristic of the developer” appears in Claim 25 from which Claim 26 depends. According the quoted text in Claim 26 is redundant to text in Claim 25. See for comparison, dependent Claim 23, which more succinctly recites the same feature as recited in Claim 26 on file. As amended herein, Claim 26 is identical to Claim 23 but for their respective preambles and dependencies.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to Claims 25 and 26 do not affect the scope of the claims or the allowability of the claims and that no new matter has been presented.

This Amendment After Allowance (this "Amendment") ensures that the patent issuing herefrom will be in the best possible form. No additional claims are presented. This Amendment was not previously presented, inasmuch as it was only recently recognized that the clarity and the form of the claims can be improved. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the present application, it is respectfully submitted that full consideration of this Amendment will not require any additional search, more than a cursory review of the record, or any materially-added work, time, and effort on the part of

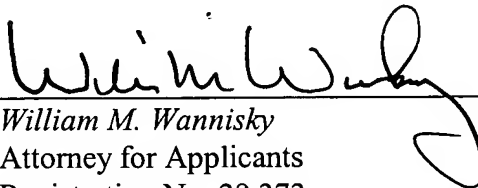
the Office. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 714.16, pages 700-241 and 242 (Eighth Edition, Rev. 3, August 2005).

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments presented herein merely pertain to formal changes in the claims and that handling of this Amendment After Allowance pursuant to MPEP § 714.16(d) II, page 700-244 (Eighth Edition, Rev. 3, August 2005) is proper.

Favorable consideration and entry hereof are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the below-shown address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
*William M. Wannisky*  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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